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Roxbury, Sept. 2, 1874.

Dear Wendell:

Fanny returned to us last evening from Providence, in fine health and spirits, having enjoyed to the brim her visit to the Park and its specially beloved occupants, and also to "uncle Henry and aunt Charlotte" at P. On ~~Saturday~~ Sunday afternoon the latter gave her a drive down to Noyatt, where she had a pleasant time with the Fillinghasts, May Townsend being also in company. She thought "cousin Sarah" was looking remarkably fair and beautiful, notwithstanding her five children. Monday forenoon they took the steamer for Newport, and made the grand ten miles' circuit around the island — a notable ride which Frank and I accomplished a short time since, and which ^{I hope} you will yet enjoy, if you have not already done so.

Frank has put your letter to him into my hands; and for the filial invitation to me to make you a visit immediately, contained therein, accept a father's thanks. I would gladly accept it, were it not that you have already had of company quantum suff., and are soon expecting more on the arrival of the Denises; that I have been twice absent from home, for a considerable time, this season, and ought now to remain for your mother's sake, though she strongly urges me to ^{"go"}, with her characteristic self-abnegation; and that I shall be able here, after a fashion, to try the efficacy of hot salt water baths for my rheumatism. Of one thing I feel sure, that neither electrical nor Turkish baths are suited to my case, but only serve to aggravate it. What misery I endured, night and day, during my three weeks at Providence!

Since my return home, I have been greatly relieved of the suffering in my left ~~thigh~~, which was of a most acute and inflammatory nature, and in other respects are feeling better than hitherto.

Your mother is also feeling and looking very well. On Friday occurs the fortieth anniversary of our wedding-day. I have kept the matter strictly confined to our own family circle, so far as any knowledge of it is concerned, because I despise the practice of levying upon relatives, friends and acquaintances as is now so frequently and so selfishly resorted to at a much earlier period in wedded life. We shall quietly invite the Anthonys, Nowells, Thaxters and Lewis to take tea with us that evening, and the young folks (by the aid of Lizzie Simmons, Mary Wells, &c.) may enliven the occasion by a little song-singing and dancing, if they like.

We all very much regret that you and Lucy, and Charley, and dear Mrs. McKim (to whom my heart goes out in tenderest sympathy) cannot be with us on the occasion. Ellie also will be absent necessarily; and whether William (now absent) will get back in season is quite problematical.

The dreadful atrocities which are daily perpetrated upon the colored people at the South, (including loyal white men and governmental officials,) are enough to "stir a fever in the blood of age," and make the very stones cry out. The diabolical spirit of slavery and rebellion is still dominant in that section; and where is Grant, except smoking his cigars and receiving camp meeting visitors?

Your loving Father.